

Message Text

SECRET

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S E C R E T STATE 220291 TOSEC 260082

NODIS
CHEROKEE

FOLLOWING REPEAT LUSAKA 2281 ACTION SECSTATE 4 SEP 76
17953
S E C R E T LUSAKA 2281

NODIS

CHEROKEE

PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH JOSHUA NKOMO

REF: STATE 214405

1. I MET WITH NKOMO AT MY HOUSE ON SATURDAY MORNING. HE
ARRIVED WITH A CAR AND DRIVER FROM KAUNDA'S STATE HOUSE.
HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PERSONAL ASSISTANT EDWARD NDLOVU.

2. I TOLD NKOMO THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED TO SEE HIM IN ORDER
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TO CONTINUE THE CONVERSATIONS IN WHICH HE HAD ENGAGED WITH

THE SECRETARY AND SCHAUFEL. WE WERE ALSO INTERESTED IN ANY COMMENTS HE MIGHT HAVE ON THE DEVELOPING SITUATION AS WELL AS HIS FUTURE PLANS. I SAID WE HAD FOLLOWED HIS TRAVEL TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND WERE PLEASED WITH THE SUPPORT HE HAD RECEIVED. I NOTED THAT HE HAD UNDOUBTEDLY FOLLOWED THE ROGERS/SCHAUFEL TRIP AND THAT AS HE WAS AWARE THE SECRETARY WAS NOW IN ZURICH. I TOLD HIM THAT SCHAUFEL WAS NOW PLANNING TO TRAVEL TO DAR TO MEET WITH THE FIVE PRESIDENTS. I THEN OUTLINED THE WAY WE SEE THE RHODESIAN SITUATION DEVELOPING ACCORDING TO PARA 3(C) OF REFTL. I NOTED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG THE NATIONALISTS GROUPS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ASKED HIM HIS FUTURE PLANS.

3. NKOMO SAID HE HAD RECEIVED A MESSAGE THAT HE SHOULD GO TO DAR BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT FOR, WHAT HE WOULD DO THERE, OR WITH WHOM HE WOULD MEET. HIS PLAN WAS TO CONTINUE ON TO SALISBURY WHERE HE WANTED TO SPEND THE NEXT WEEKS. IT HAD BEEN FOUR AND A HALF MONTHS SINCE HE HAD LEFT RHODESIA AND HE STRONGLY FELT THE NEED TO RETURN. I SAID I THOUGHT THE MEETING IN DAR WAS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT ONE AND I WAS SURE HE WOULD WANT TO TALK TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA (WHO RETURNS TO LUSAKA LATER THIS AFTERNOON) BEFORE DECIDING WHAT TO DO. I ALSO NOTED THAT THE NEXT FEW WEEKS WOULD BE FULL ONES AND I HOPED THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO STAY IN CLOSE COMMUNICATION WITH HIM. WE EXPECTED CONSIDERABLE TRAVEL BY THE INTERESTED PARTIES AND WE WOULD WANT TO GET HIS VIEWS AND COMMUNICATE RAPIDLY WITH HIM. THIS, I SAID, WOULD BE DIFFICULT IF HE RETURNED TO SALISBURY.

4. NKOMO WENT OVER THE PROJECTION OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS WHICH I HAD OUTLINED TO HIM. WHEN HE HESITATED I REVIEWED THEM AGAIN ALMOST VERBATIM FROM REFTL. HE THOUGHT ABOUT THEM FOR A WHILE AND SAID HE WOULD OF COURSE NEED THE DETAILS BEFORE HE COULD COMMENT.

5. NDLOVU, WITH NKOMO'S AGREEMENT, EXPRESSED THE NEED FOR DIRECT COMMUNICATION. HE SAID THE AMERICANS HAD DONE A GOOD JOB OF KEEPING THEM INFORMED OF EVENTS BUT THAT THEY DID NOT WANT TO RECEIVE THEIR INFORMATION FILTERED THROUGH OTHERS.

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DURING THE CONVERSATION BOTH HE AND NKOMO ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS EXPRESSED THEIR SUSPICION AND CONCERN OVER THE INTERMEDIARIES INVOLVED. NKOMO SAID THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE THE INTERESTS OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE AT HEART, BUT RATHER THEIR OWN CONCERNS WHICH MAY BE QUITE DIFFERENT. AFRICAN LEADERSHIP MUST BE DETERMINED BY THE ZIMBABWEANS THEMSELVES. IT CANNOT BE IMPOSED FROM THE OUTSIDE EITHER BY THEIR NEIGHBORS OR GROUPS OPERATING OUTSIDE

THE COUNTRY. ANYTHING OF THAT KIND, HE SAID, WOULD NEVER
LAST AND WOULD ONLY CREATE MORE PROBLEMS. I SAID THAT WHILE
I UNDERSTOOD HIS POINT VERY WELL, I WAS SURE HE COULD UNDER-
STAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING MORE PROGRESS TOWARD COOPERA-
TION AMONG THE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS IF WE ARE TO BE SUCCESS-
FUL. OBVIOUSLY, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS A DECISION WOULD HAVE
TO BE MADE BY THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE BUT IT IS LIKELY THAT
THERE WOULD BE A NEED FOR A RESPONSIBLE INTERLOCATEUR TO DEAL
WITH BEFORE THAT.

6. COMMENT: AS EXPLAINED IN THE NEXT FOLLOWING TELEGRAM,
I BELIEVE KAUNDA WILL MAKE CERTAIN THAT NKOMO IS IN DAR.

LOW

UNQUOTE

ROBINSON

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NNN

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